

**ASIAN COALITION EDUCATION EVENT**  
**By Kathleen Piché, L.C.S.W., Public Affairs Director**



On Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, approximately 80 LACDMH staff, consumers and friends gathered at the California Endowment to learn about healthcare reform in our communities. Sponsored by the Asian Coalition, the event focused on healthcare reform and stigma reduction in the Asian and Under Represented Ethnic populations (UREP).

Morning speakers included Dennis Murata, M.S.W., LACDMH Deputy Director, Planning Division, who talked about stereotypes and expectations in the Asian-American culture, and Clayton Chau, M.D., Ph.D., LA Care Behavioral Health Medical Director, who noted that having any kind of disability should not stop anyone from pursuing their dreams. Emily Wu served as Master of Ceremonies.



A panel discussion with clients who have experienced the stigma and discrimination associated with having a mental health diagnosis followed the keynote by Dr. Chau.

Persons with lived experience Raymond Kaneko, Emily Wu and Chanh To told their stories and answered questions from the audience.

Following a lunch break, Myron Quon, Executive Director, National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA), addressed the crowd on substance use in the Asian culture.

